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DE RUEHKO #2025 2450549
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 020549Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5927
INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0389
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY 0205
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2471
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY 0130
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 6560

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002025

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/02/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MR](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPAN WILL OPEN EMBASSY IN MAURITANIA

REF: A. 08 TOKYO 3203
[1](#)B. 08 STATE 122627

Classified By: DCM James P. Zumwalt per reason 1.4(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) On September 2, MOFA First Africa Division Principal Deputy Director Naoaki Kamoshida told the Embassy that Japan intends to open an embassy in Mauritania on December 1, 2009. In November 2008, the U.S. had asked that Japan defer a plan to open its embassy there on January 1, 2009, in order to avoid the appearance of giving inadvertent support to the military coup that seized power in August 2008 (Ref B). The GOJ agreed, saying that MOFA was weighing the conditions needed to move ahead, including, inter alia, a timeline for the restoration of democracy, the release of then-President Abdallahi and the stance of the international community (Ref A).

[1](#)2. (C) In explaining the GOJ decision to move forward, Kamoshida noted that Mauritania's July presidential election had been held in a largely democratic manner and that Japan had recognized the new government on August 11. He also cited U.S. Embassy Nouakchott's July 27 press statement which in part said that the U.S. looked forward to working with President Aziz and his government. Accordingly, Kamoshida presumed that Japan's decision to open an embassy "would no longer cause concern" for the USG.
ROOS